

SAINT PAUL PROMISE

March 20, 2024

RE: Letter of Support for HF 2666 (Hollins): Basic Income Demonstration Project

Chair Noor & honorable members of the committee,

Saint Paul Promise is committed to advancing social and economic opportunities so that communities throughout Minnesota can thrive. Access to financial stability and growth is a critical component of any flourishing community. Through our experience with Saint Paul Promise families participating in the Wilder Foundation's Rai\$e Program, we have seen how impactful guaranteed basic income projects can be.

Saint Paul Promise believes Minnesota must invest in guaranteed basic income models of flexible financial support to disrupt poverty and advance racial and gender equity. Through such investments, we can support families across the state in feeling supported on their journey to build wealth for themselves, their families, and their communities.

We encourage committee members to support HF 2666. This bill will enhance the state's ability to offer support that ensures people have the resources to afford childcare, transportation, job training, and accessible housing while maintaining pathways to financial independence.

Some facts about Basic Income:

- Basic Income consists of monthly, cash payments given directly to individuals with the intent to disrupt poverty, advance racial and gender equity, and support basic needs;
- It is unconditional, with no strings attached and no work requirements;
- It supplements, rather than replaces, the existing social safety net;
- It is time-limited;
- Communities are required to design their program with the people who would be accessing it and...
 - Data tells us that basic income programs:
 - Alleviate barriers to full-time employment
 - Improves mental health outcomes
 - Improves infant and toddler developmental outcomes; and
 - Reduces the impact of unexpected economic shocks

GBI's are tested and demonstrably effective way to ensure Minnesotans have the income they need to increase their economic well-being. **We urge you to support HF 2666.**

If you have any questions regarding Saint Paul Promise's support for HF 2666, please contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tiffany Scott Knox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tiffany Scott Knox
Director of Saint Paul Promise

THINK PROUD. THINK RADICALLY. THINK SAINT PAUL. THINK PROUD. THINK RADICALLY. THINK SAINT PAUL.